



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Finance and Resources Committee

HIGHFIELDS STATION UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 24 October 2008

Purpose of Report:

To keep Members informed of progress on this major project.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : Neil Timms
Head of Finance and Resources

Tel : 0115 967 0880

Email : neil.timms@notts-fire.gov.uk

Media Enquiries Contact : Elisabeth Reeson
(0115) 967 5889 elisabeth.reeson@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

Members of the Finance and Resources Committee have asked to be kept informed of progress on the project to build a new fire station at Beeston (Highfields Fire Station) by way of regular reports.

2. REPORT

Project Progress

- 2.1 The progress of the build is steady and whilst the intentions to complete by 5 December 2008 are being addressed, the reality is that practical completion will be 11 January 2009. The effect of the two week Christmas close down is an influencing factor, as well as other interruptions caused in the main by easement issues of drainage, new road layouts, and design changes introduced post tender. Work is now being carried out to plan the move into the building.
- 2.2 On going meetings are held as follows:
- Mechanical and electrical – fortnightly;
 - Construction site meetings – monthly;
 - Cost appraisal meetings – monthly;
 - Internal project meetings – monthly.
- 2.3 The construction company – Allenbuild, continues to be proactive in its approach to optimising resources with regards to material, time and labour. However, there have been some difficulties with the chosen consultants and more than expected guidance from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel and their own approved contractors has been necessary to provide assistance with design issues.

Latest Cost Estimate

- 2.4 The net budget for the project is £2.4m, which is £7.8m costs, less £5.4m capital receipts. The net budget includes a contingency sum of £531k.
- 2.5 The projected cost reported to Finance and Resources Committee on 25 July 2008 was £7,609k – ie: a projected underspend of £191k. The latest cost report had not been received from the project consultants at the time of writing this report, but the claim by Allenbuild for an extension to the project time has now been approved, resulting in further costs of £32k. Members will receive a verbal update on the latest cost estimate at the meeting.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are set out in the main body of this report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources and learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equality impact assessment has been previously undertaken for this project to take account of its impact on both the workforce and the community.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The risk assessment for this project was updated in June 2008.

8.2 There are two key risks in this project: the risk of overspending the capital budget and the risk of the project not completing on time. There are a number of measures in place to manage these risks:

- A dedicated project manager has been appointed to manage the project and is aware of the financial position.
- There is a fixed tender price for the construction and any applications from the builder for increased costs are checked by a quantity surveyor. There is provision for liquidated damages in the contract, which is a disincentive for late completion.
- A contingency sum has been built into the project costs to ensure that contractual extras or unknown events can be covered.
- A contingency sum is being held outside of the contract.
- Any requests for additional items outside of the building contract must be approved by the project group, which is chaired by an Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

- Projected costs are monitored regularly and reported to both the project group and Members.
- If the building is not completed by the time Dunkirk Fire Station has to be vacated, then contingency plans for relocating the crews and appliances will need to be enacted.
- A claim for a 15 day contract extension has been approved and the drainage issue could lead to a further claim by the builder.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members note the contents of this report.
- 9.2 That arrangements are made for Members to visit the Highfields site to review progress.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER